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takes aim at summer fun

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After running a catering business for the past number of years in Haliburton, Franka Andriano is now taking it to the next level. Her new location at the Village Barn offers a café with many different tasty options, as well as a place to order catering for individuals, families, or large functions.

Franka's cookin' it up for everyone

Story and photo by Sunita Karir

There's a new taste in town. With fresh panini sandwiches, frothy lattes, gelato, and much, much more, Franka's Café and Catering has something for everybody.

Earlier this year, Franka Andriano sold her Whispering Pines Bed & Breakfast, which she had owned since coming to Haliburton six years ago. She had to make a decision about what she wanted to do with her life, and one of her options included moving to the warm and sunny Bahamas after she was offered a job there.

Despite the temptation of living in the hot vacation spot, Andriano wanted to continue her life in Haliburton. She originally moved here after becoming a frequent visitor at bed and breakfasts in the area. Eventually she found it too hard to leave and decided to stay put, opening her own bed and breakfast as well as operating Franka's Delectables Catering Services.

Now she has opened a café in the former location of Rachel's Bakery.

"It's small enough that people will feel like they're in my

kitchen; you will feel like you're in my home," she says.

When you walk into the new café, you will be greeted by a fresh, energizing island feel. Andriano worked closely with Wendy Snelgrove from Dovetail Interiors to create the relaxed atmosphere she was looking for. The walls are painted with bright lemon and lime sorbet colours, and there are huge kitchen counters where you can pull up a chair.

"It's an open kitchen, where you can see everything being made, because I didn't want to be in the back cooking, with people in the front ordering," says Andriano.

"You can come in and sit down, have a latte, have a coffee, have some lunch or a dessert, and relax," said Andriano.

There's a whole other side to the business though, and that is the take-out aspect. What she really wants to do is bring catering to the street, so that anybody can take advantage of it. You can come in and pick up a home-made fresh or frozen healthy meal with no-preservatives ready to take home. The preparation once you get home

is minimal – you might have to heat it up or throw some salad dressing on a salad.

"You're tired, you don't want to eat out, you don't want to buy the same thing again, you want something different, and you can come here and get anything from one serving to 100 servings," said Andriano.

There is no set menu and Andriano will take special requests. Every Friday night she will offer a family pasta special for four. The pasta will be made fresh with home-made sauce, some salad and bread on the side, and dessert, all for \$24.

Most of the food is freezer friendly, so meals can be ordered ahead. You can stock your freezer with some of Franka's mouth-watering cooking.

In the café itself, there will always be delicious items available on the hot table. Meatballs, veal and grilled chicken can be ready to go instantly into a hot panini sandwich. Many of the items offered will be available every day, with different sides and salads. Andriano is planning to experiment with new recipes all the time so there is always something different to try.

"I want to offer something interesting, exciting and different and I want people to be part of it," she said. "I want them to come in and say 'I loved that spinach pie, can you make that again?' and then I will."

Her slogan is "What's Franka cooking today?" and she wants people to come in and ask, because there will be something different each time.

All of her coffee is fair trade, and the food is made fresh to order. Andriano says she can take some special requests, such as gluten-free, and wants to really cater to the town, and continue shaping her business into what people want. She eventually plans to hold cooking classes at her new location as well, where you can bring some food home with you and have a meal or two already prepared for the week.

For office lunches, family dinners, or large catered events, you can call ahead and order whatever you like. Andriano's website, www.frankascatering.com, will eventually have a page that lists all the specials offered in the café for the week. Pre-ordering will help make sure the food is ready to be picked up as soon as you get there, and you can take it home to eat and relax.

The store will be open seven days a week during the summertime, from 8 – 8 on Mondays to Saturdays, and 9 – 6 on Sundays.

"I'm excited to start cooking," said Andriano. "After being so busy the last few months with organizing and planning and details, I can't wait to get back into the kitchen."

To order food or chat with Andriano, you can give her a call at 457-DINE, which is 457-3463. Or stop by the new neighbourhood café at the Village Barn, and ask, "What's Franka cooking today?"

The Cottage Times



Cover photo by:
Martha Perkins
Cover design by:
Wanda Factley

David Zilstra, General Manager
Martha Perkins, Managing Editor
Linda Emmerson, Circulation
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Greg Hoekstra, Jenn Watt,
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Laura Smith, Ashley Chandler, Sarah Adams,
Molly McInerney, Laura Chowzun, Ad sales
Wanda Factley, Editorial Graphic Designer
Kelly Findlay, Pre-Press Coordinator

Cottage Times office

Tel: (705) 457-1037 Fax: (705) 457-3275
P.O. 360, 146 Highland Street (The Echo)
Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0

The Cottage Times, Haliburton Highlands edition,
is produced by The Haliburton County Echo and
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Let's get summer going already

Cookin' It Up With Franka • Franka Andriano

This has been one of the rainiest Junes I have known. It feels like we haven't hit summer yet, so we will have to get summer going.

There is nothing nicer in the summer than light easy foods that can be taken on a picnic, to a friend's house or just to your own back yard.

Grilled Lemon Chicken

3/4 cup freshly squeezed lemon juice (about 4)

3/4 cup good olive oil

2 tsps kosher salt

1 tsp black pepper

1 tbsp fresh thyme leaves or 1/2 tsp dried

2 lbs boneless chicken breasts, halved

and skinned

Whisk together the lemon juice, oil, salt, pepper and thyme. Pour over the chicken breasts and in a glass or ceramic bowl. Cover and marinate in the fridge for six hours or overnight. Heat a charcoal grill and cook the chicken breasts for 10 minutes on each side until just cooked through. Cool slightly and cut diagonally in 1/2 inch thick slices.

Skewer with wooden sticks.

Potato Fennel Gratin

Fennel is called anise and it has a bit of a liquorice taste. I call it the Italian celery and it can be eaten on its own, especially after a heavy meal, as it refreshes your palate. It is a versatile vegetable as it can be

eaten alone, sautéed, in soups or baked.

2 small fennel bulbs

1 yellow onion, thinly sliced

2 tbsp good olive oil

1 tbsp unsalted butter

2 lb russet potatoes (4 large)

2 cups plus 2 tbsp heavy cream

2 and half cups grated Gruyere cheese (half lb)

1 tsp kosher salt

1/2 tsp pepper

Preheat oven to 350° degrees. Butter the inside of a 10x15x2 inch or approximate 10-cup baking dish.

Remove the stalks from the fennel (stalks can be used in soups) and cut the bulbs in half lengthwise. Remove the cores and thinly slice the bulbs crosswise, making

approximately 4 cups of sliced fennel. Sauté the fennel and onions in the olive oil and butter on medium low heat for 15 minutes until tender.

Peel the potatoes, and then thinly slice them by hand. Mix the sliced potatoes in a large bowl with 2 cups of cream, 2 cups of Gruyere, salt and pepper. Add the sautéed fennel and onion and mix well.

Pour the potatoes into the baking dish. Press down to smooth the potatoes. Combine the remaining 2 tbsp of cream and 1/2 cup Gruyere and sprinkle on the top. Bake for one and half hours, until the potatoes are very tender and the top is browned and bubbly. Allow setting for 10 minutes and serving.

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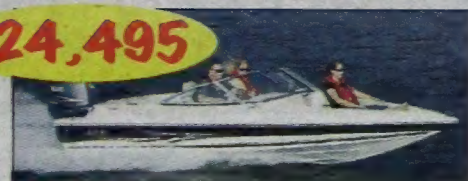
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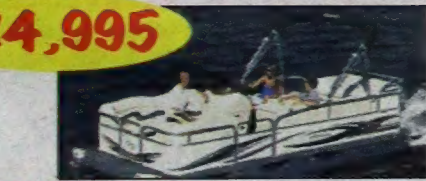
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Ski-Mazing employee Mike Wallace takes a ride on the WakeKite. You too can try a test ride of the new summer sport at Ski-Mazing on Lake Kashagawigamog on July 5. Photo by Matt James.

Fly like a kite above the wake

Story by Matt James

Humans have always been on a quest for a rush of adrenaline and the newest buzz for such thrill-seekers in the Highlands comes in the form of a WakeKite.

If you've never heard of a WakeKite and you're visiting, cottaging or living in Haliburton County you should float by Ski-Mazing Water Sports on Lake Kashagawigamog July 5 and 6.

Owner Craig Bowker is hosting demonstration on July 5 and on July 6 has invited Pro Team WakeKite rider Kedzie Gunderson to perform some big air tricks at the regular Sunday night show at the Wigamog Inn.

Mike Wallace, a water-fiend in his twenties from Port Perry, and Heather Butts, a journalism student who's worked the past four summers for Bowker, will be helping out during the WakeKite demo days.

On a beautiful day in June, Butts brings the powerful motor to life with the turn of a key. As we headed for a part of the lake that was less windy Bowker talked a little about WakeKiting.

"No wind is preferred when using the WakeKite," said Bowker, "but experienced riders can manage if it is a bit breezy."

While the WakeKite has every characteristic of a kite, NO wind will get the riders the best results. If a breeze is unavoidable, about 5 mph or less, it's best to drive directly into the wind. The only wind needed is produced by the speed of the boat; the recommended speed for a WakeKite is 18-24 mph.

The kite itself weights about 6 lbs and has been on the market for about two years. One of the main reason for its recent popularity, other than the fact that it's supposed to be a lot of fun, is that HO Sports, one of the biggest name brands in water sports, picked up the rights to sell the product. Today the WakeKite has several dealers throughout the world, one being Ski-Mazing.

With all of the ropes and straps in place Bowker is ready to launch and Butts throws down the throttle. The motor roars. Bowker, who's riding a wakeboard, goes through the same starting motions as if he was wakeboarding. He pops out of the water and straightens out the board and his body position. Only this time he's attached to a giant kite that is floating above him. When he's ready, he carves into the wake and jumps off the wake, experiencing an extended flight as the kite keeps him suspended above the water a little longer. When the jump is completed he's in with a softer landing, one of the benefits of the WakeKite.

"Traditionally with wakeboarding the rider is going so fast," said Bowker. "The jump over the wake is over before you know it. The idea behind the WakeKite is to double or even triple the amount of airtime and enjoy the sensation man is always after: defying gravity."

Now, this isn't a miracle kite - there can still be some significant bails. But in four years there have been no serious injuries with the WakeKite. However, operators, spotters and riders should always practise common sense, watch the instructional DVD, read the user's manual, or have professional instruction before using. It's just the smart thing to do.

One of the smallest but coolest selling points of a WakeKite is the fact that riders aren't restricted to a wakeboard; you can use water skis or a kneeboard, for example. But don't confuse WakeKiting with kiteboarding.

Continued on pg 5

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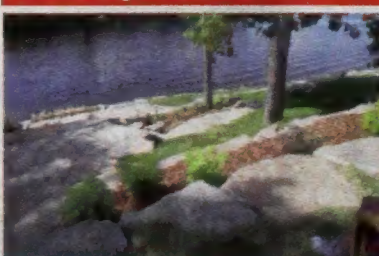
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Rush seekers can try out new water sport

WakeKite demonstration on Lake Kashagawigamog July 5 and 6

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Kiteboarding is when a rider has only a kite and a wakeboard, or surfboard. The rider depends solely on the wind in order to get airborne. Kiteboarding is usually done in oceans or in waters with very high winds. After jumping off an ocean wave the wind carries the rider high above the water's surface.

To operate a WakeKite you need a boat.

Bowker says a lot of thought has been put into the design and safety of the product.

Unlike similar water toys that have surfaced over recent years, "The driver of the boat is not in control the WakeKite," said Bowker. "The rider is and the engineering that has gone into it is really quite extensive."

There are actually four safety features of the WakeKite. It has four separate release points: the tow line/boat connection; the release shackle with lanyard at the rear of the boat or riser; a release ball connection at end of end of the rider's handle; and the kite release line.

A 2006-2007 HO Sports safety analysis for WakeKite says it is "a masterpiece of safety-driven design and fun meant to add responsibility to the boating industry."

And under the heading "Safety Engineering" a paragraph reads, "After four years of safety-driven design, and endless testing in all kinds of conditions, multiple safety features have been designed into the WakeKite



This photo illustration of a professional WakeKiter was taken somewhere in the U.S. It shows just how much more hang time and distance are possible with a little practice. Photo courtesy Ski-Mazing.

(Superfly 9.0) to provide safe use and product durability."

Speaking of durability, Bowker's behind the boat rocking the WakeKite, loving every minute of it.

There are still spots available for the WakeKite clinic. To sign up for the WakeKite demo on July 5-6 or for all other inquiries call Ski-Mazing at 457-3001 ext. 856.

On Sunday nights Ski-Mazing will host a weekly performance of water sports at the Wigamog Inn Resort. Each week the Ski-Mazing team will perform water sports talents such as clown acts, wakeboard flips, backwards barefooting, Air Chair jumps, and the five-man pyramid. All shows begin at 8 p.m. in the month of July and then the time switches to 7:30 p.m. for August.

Other date-specific events are group lessons for either waterskiing or wakeboarding, a free ski/wake boat driver training session on July 20, and a pleasure craft boat

exam licensing program.

The Divas Only Wakeboard Wisdom Clinic has a tentative date set for July 19. Bowker hopes to have Sunni Anne Ball, a national and world wakeboard champion, visit for the day and coach sessions for women all of ages.

In the Rip and Ride water sports certification program kids can earn bronze, silver, and gold certificates in all water sports offered at Ski-Mazing.

And the Powersurf, a riding vehicle with a built-in four-stroke engine, is available to rent. It gives riders the feeling of surfing without having to find big waves.

Many of the events and services offered by Ski-Mazing have a limited spaces so visit the Ski-Mazing website www.skiwakefootschool.com or call Craig Bowker at 457-3001 ext. 856. You can also find information about some of the events in the 2008 Summer Guide available for free around the county.

Cottage Calendar

To include your lake association's events in this free listing, e-mail them to editor@haliburtonecho.ca

Drag and Spruce Lakes

www.dragandsprucelakes.ca

July 5: Golf Tournament at Haliburton Highlands Golf Club starting at 11:00 a.m. Contact Wayne Hussey.

Canning Lake

July 5: Pitch in Garbage (PIG) Day. Meet at Ingoldsby Park 9:30 a.m.

July 6: Annual General Meeting. 9:30 a.m. coffee and doughnuts; 10 a.m. meeting at Rigney's Roost, 1037 Hamlin Lane.

Kennis Lake

www.klcoa.org

June 28: Fireworks after dark (no earlier than 9:45.) Rain date is June 29.

July 5: Rock bass tournament. Gather at Little Kennis bridge. It's the family fishing weekend so no licence is required. Contact Keith Rodd.

July 7 to August 15: Week-long swim and water safety lessons. Meet new friends and become more comfortable in the water. Contact Stephanie Clark at sekclark@gmail.com.

Soyers Lake

www.soyerslake.ca

July 6: Annual Golf Tournament, 1 p.m. Register with Art Ward, 457-3154, or Jim Waddell, 457-3233. \$85 includes cart and prime rib dinner



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In a misguided attempt to mimic Haliburton County's greatest adventurer, R.D. Lawrence, CSI investigators Steve Galea and Greg Hoekstra tried to feed deer ketchup and mustard. Hoekstra paid dearly for the experiment and wound up with a deer imprint in his forehead.

Haliburton Hoekstra and the Temple of Ron

Column by Steve Galea Galea • Photos by Matt James

So there we were, deep in the wilderness, somewhere in the jungles of Haliburton County sneaking up on a bedded whitetail buck.

"Why are we doing this again?" County Scene Investigator Greg Hoekstra asked, as I handed him a fully-loaded ketchup squeeze bottle.

"Because, we're trying to be just like R.D. Lawrence," I said.

"You mean he snuck up on wild animals?"

"No," I clarified, "but I figure if we feed that deer, it'll be our friend. Ol' R.D. was always a friend to animals."

Minutes later, as Hoekstra rubbed the hoof imprint on his forehead, he asked the million-dollar question, "What went wrong?" Followed by "Who am I?"

"I'm not sure about either one," I replied, as I dislodged myself from a nearby tree, "but next time we try relish and we won't yell 'giddy-up'."

Perhaps I should explain...

It all began when Hoekstra and I decided that we'd had enough of investigative journalism.

"We need a good adventure," Hoekstra announced.

I had to agree; somewhere between playing accordions while whitewater canoeing, getting stranded in trees, and going off-roading on tricycles, life had become far too ordinary.

And though Haliburton Hoekstra and I are not so weak-minded as to be easily influenced, I will admit that we probably shouldn't have skipped off of work to see the latest Indiana Jones movie, especially after reading about R.D. Lawrence's adventures the night before. The duo was a dangerous mix, especially when you get things as mixed up as we do.

"S.R. Galea," Hoekstra said dramatically, as we headed out the door on that first adventure. "we're about to embark on an epic journey. Once we head through that door there's no turning back."

"Then we won't use the garbage chute," I said.

"Even so, this seems like a dangerous thing to do."

In fact, it was very dangerous. Ol' Parsimonious Perkins, the meanest Editor north of Antarctica, had already told us to cover a potato-growing contest, somewhere west of Irondale. Instead, and in direct violation of those orders,

we donned our Indiana Jones-style hats and borrowed two of Perkins' favourite whips – the ones she uses during Employee Appreciation Week. Then we struck out to

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The adventurers scale the wall of R.D. Lawrence Place in hopes of dislodging the jewels embedded within.

Another damsel is saved?

Continued from pg 6

find fortune and glory.

Since we couldn't find that, we decided to go R.D. Lawrence Place; after all, the facility is practically a temple to the greatest adventurer Haliburton has ever known.

"We're bound to find exciting activity there," I said as we pulled into the driveway and beheld an exotic structure unlike any in Minden. Legend says that within its mysterious walls was a composting toilet.

Our first taste of danger came almost immediately as Haliburton Hoekstra turned towards me and walked into a post. Luckily, just before he collided, I pulled out my trusty whip, cracked it, wrapped it around his neck, and tied it to the trailer hitch of a passing truck. Otherwise, he might have got hurt.

"Thanks," he said, as he picked gravel out of his teeth, eyes, and nostrils. "That was close."

Throwing all caution to the wind for a second time, we entered daringly through the out door and soon found ourselves in an antechamber that led into the mysterious main structure of R.D. Lawrence place.

"Let's go in," Haliburton Hoekstra announced, as he pointed towards the archway.

"Don't be so hasty," I said. "Look at all those fancy jewels in the wall."

"Are you thinking what I'm thinking?" he winked.

"Absolutely," I answered, "we have to climb this wall for dramatic effect. Otherwise, what kind of adventurers would we be?"

As we scaled the wall in true adventurer fashion, one of the guardians of the Temple of Ron stepped through the archway and sounded the alarm.

"Why are you idiots trying to pry the coloured gin bottles out of the wall?" R.D. Lawrence Place co-ordinator Sheryl Loucks yelled.

"Fortune and glory?" I suggested.

"But they're worthless," she muttered.

"Hah!" Hoekstra countered, "if by worthless you mean twenty cents a bottle!"

Unfortunately, Loucks was not about to give up these priceless treasures without a fight. So as soon as she pulled us down from the walls the brawl was on. It was almost unfair really - two brawny adventurers in their prime, each armed with whips and fully loaded condiment bottles, against the female curator of an outdoors education centre.

"We'll win next time," I reassured

Hoekstra, as I dusted off my hat. "She's stronger than she looks."

While we were licking off our wounds, a pretty young woman walked by us, carrying two heavy boxes.

"Are you guys all right?" asked Catherine Coles, the children's program co-ordinator. "And why are you licking yourselves?"

"No reason really," I smiled. "We've just got into our first scrap as world-famous adventurers. We defeated the onions of evil."

"You mean minions," she corrected.

"Give us a break lady, we're new at this," Hoekstra yelled.

"Is that why you've got a hoof mark on your head?" she asked.

"Long story," he replied.

"Hey," she smiled in a perfect heroine-type smile, "can you guys help me?"

Being adventurers, up for anything, we agreed. There's actually nothing more irresistible to us adventurous types than helping a damsel in distress. And so it was that we carried those heavy boxes for Catherine, as she led us right into the inner sanctum of R.D. Lawrence Place.

That exciting adventure was half complete when Sheryl's voice echoed around the corner.

Greg and I looked at Catherine and said, "Quick, we've got to get you out of here!"

"But I work here," she said.

"But we need someone to rescue," I lamented.

"Do you think that just because I'm a woman I need rescuing?" she snapped as she waved a pair of safety scissors menacingly.

"No offence, but that's what heroes like us and Indiana Jones do," I said.

"It's either that or be afraid of snakes," laughed Hoekstra.

A short while later, as Greg and I drove off into the sunset, we both finally understood what it was like to be a real life hero, just like Indiana Jones.

"Snakes," I muttered. "Why did it have to be snakes?"

Want real-life adventure? Visit R.D. Lawrence Place and join the Minden Culture Club for Kids. The fun takes place every Saturday from 9 am to 12 noon from June 21st to August 23rd. Children from ages 6 years are welcome to participate in exciting activities, including the Be Indiana Jones session (where they learn about archaeology) as well as a slew of others. The cost is a very reasonable \$5 per event or \$45 for the entire season. For more information, or to register, drop in or call Catherine at 705-286-3154.



In true heroic fashion, Galea and Hoekstra use their whips to swing from two boulders at R.D. Lawrence Place and "rescue" damsel in distress Catherine Coles (nevermind the fact that Catherine insisted she didn't need rescuing).

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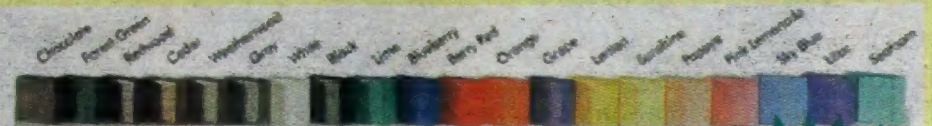
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R.D. Lawrence Place Children's Program Coordinator Catherine Coles uses the boys' fear of snakes against them.

Kids can explore and be creative this summer

Saturday mornings at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre

Culture Club at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre gets your kids outdoors and into something creative. Hands-on fun has children exploring history and the environment while discovering the power of art and words. Support local non-profit children's programming and register by calling Catherine at 286-3154.

Where: Minden Hills Cultural Centre
174 Bobcaygeon Road, Minden.

When: Every Saturday morning 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. until Aug. 23.

Cost: \$5 per child drop-in or pre-register for the summer \$45/per child.

Who: Ages 6 years and up.

What: See the list of themes for the 2008 summer program below.

I Am History

What is your background? Want to become part of history? We'll show you how through imagery and imagination.

Hilarious Honkers

SMELL! Is that your honker?! Find out who's got the oddest and the best sniffers in the wild. Make your own snout, fun stories and jokes and make animal patterns.

Catching Legends

What legends surround this area? Catch your dreams, write your own legend and discover the secrets in nature.

Morphing

Make giant chrysalis/wire sculpture butterflies, butterfly buffets and more.

Flower Power Mosaics

What do trees have to say when you're lost in the dark? Plant your own flower in a clay pot you decorate learning the patterns and principles behind mosaic.

Be Indiana Jones

Learn about local artifacts like arrow heads. Make your own alphabet. What is cuneiform? Paint and decorate your own artifact. Talk with an archeologist.



Talk to an archeologist and learn about arrowheads.

Shutter Bug

Be frozen in film and blurred like a ghost then make your own pin hole camera while learning how photography was invented.

smART graphics

Funky art projects that work with different techniques with every kind of media and material. Sculpt, splatter, blend and press - you'll be Picasso for a day.

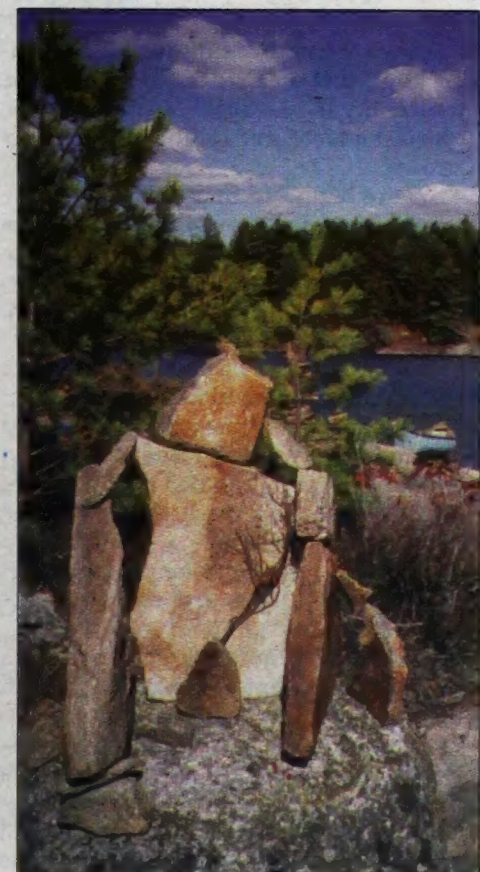
Treasure Hunting

Want to know what an inuksuk is? Find out what minerals are in this area and create your own guide book with The Rock Man.



Caveman Graffiti

Ancient wall drawings held stories and adventure. Find out what they mean and then take part in making a cave drawing to cover the gallery's wall!



Learn about these creations at the Cultural Club at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre this summer.

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Music Please

Walking Softly • Column and photo by Steve Galea

A morning mist subdues the hillside and cloaks the sky and, for a short while, my world is a smaller and more intimate place. At times like this, you hear more than you see. From the trees, fence posts, and beyond, there is birdsong.

I listen, and I try to identify and separate the sounds. Some are as familiar as a top ten hit; others though beautiful are beyond my ability to recognize. There are too many nuances and my ear is not well versed in these beautiful languages.

Of course, there are the old classics that anyone might recognize. Leading the chorus is a choir of robins. And, in the background, from somewhere in the meadow below, a goldfinch or two is singing backup. Once or twice, I think I can hear an Eastern Phoebe add to the rhythm too. Far off, a Blue Jay screams its simple call and Grackles, with their low gravelly voices, chuk-chuk-chuk in time too. Beyond that, buzzing, chirping and any number of exotic rhythms join and leave this impromptu orchestra. And so the song is ever-changing.

Admission to these concerts are free, but the players demand respect. If you sit still and listen, the tunes grow louder and more confident. Move and you disrupt the session. So I listen and sit still more than move.

Ever since we learned to verbalize our own thoughts, humans have been speculating why songbirds sing praise to the morning. Some say it's territorial, others say it's merely about making contact with their own kind. I choose not to question the reason. Knowing would not make it any better or more beautiful than it is.

Besides, when it comes to the natural world, I believe we speak far too much

and listen far too little. There's an innocent wisdom in bird songs if you choose to hear it. There's importance in the cry of a wolf pack or the sound of a moose call echoing across a lonely lake.

None of these things are profound or complex, they're just reminders that the woods and waters are home to things that we sometimes disregard or deem less important. They're assurances that life goes on with or without us. And, they possess that inherent wisdom that lies deep within all natural beauty – the kind you see when form and function produce nothing less than art.

All you need do is listen. It's not that difficult.

If you spend time outside, birds provide the soundtrack of your life. The voices of ravens, crows, loons, geese, ducks, ruffed grouse, wild turkeys, and a multitude of songbirds and raptors are never far off. Most times we tune them out or we clutter them with less elegant noise of our own.

But as I get older, as my hearing slowly loses its sharpness, these songs become more important to me. I want to learn to appreciate them better; I want to recognize the vocalists, not only because they fascinate me, but also because not doing so is like wasting a great gift that you've been given.

No harm ever came from a pretty song. And there's music all around us.

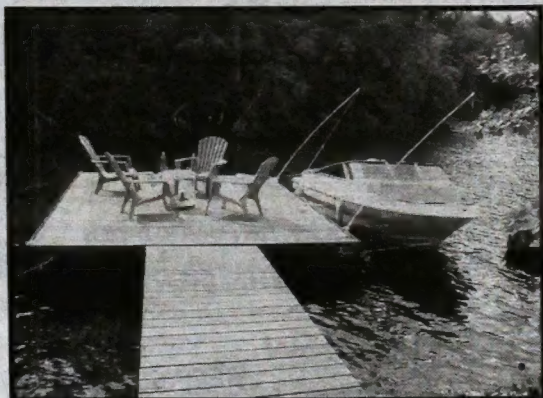
One great website is www.birds.cornell.edu/AllAboutBirds. Run by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, this sight provides sound bites of bird songs as well as interesting comments on the species. I've been visiting it a lot lately. If you have an interest in birds, you'd probably enjoy it too.



A Phoebe sits atop a wire. Her song is two rough, whistled notes, "fee-bee" with the second note rasping or with a stuttered, more whistly second note "fee-b-be-bee." Call note a clear chip.

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Fiction is as interesting as life in the Highlands Summer Festival production of *The Foreigner*. It stars Chris Archer, second from left, as an innkeeper in Georgia. In real life, Archer is an innkeeper at Matabanick Inn on Boshkung Lake. She is joined on stage by other favourite Highlands actors Tim Nicholson, Jocelyn Regina and Mark Johnson. The play runs every weeknight at 8 p.m. at the Northern Lights Pavilion in Haliburton (the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School.)

Having fun with *The Foreigner*

Story by Sunita Karir • Photo by Martha Perkins

The Highlands Summer Festival returns to the Northern Lights Pavilion with some laughs, twists and lots of fun.

The *Foreigner* opened the season with a two-week run from June 30 to July 11.

Full of colourful and witty characters, the play will keep you entertained right until the end. Chris Archer plays Betty Meeks, an elderly widow left to run a bed and breakfast. She is running out of money and has taken in two kids as boarders, played by Jocelyn Regina and Shane Dibblee. An old friend comes to visit (Jack Brezina) and brings a friend (Tim Nicholson) from England.

In real life, Archer is an innkeeper and helps her husband run the Matabanick Inn on Boshkung Lake. The inn was built in 1922 by her husband's grandfather, and has been in the family ever since.

"I can relate to the character because she runs a lodge and so do I," said Archer. "We also have the same rosy outlook on life."

There are other similarities between Archer and her character. Meeks is always preparing food, and loves to take care of her guests. Archer is the type of person who feels food can make anything better.

"I come across as pretty simple but there's another layer underneath the surface that's much livelier," said Archer.

The play is set in Georgia, and the cast is made up of

faces familiar to the Highlands stage. Archer has been part of a play each year since the theatre's inaugural season nine years ago. Archer says she often finds herself in the more comedic roles, because that is what she enjoys the most. Anything can often be made better with a laugh.

"It's just good, silly fun," said Archer. "It's light comedy with a dark twist."

After a couple days of rehearsing it can sometimes be hard to get out of character. Lines from the play can slip out from time to time in everyday conversation. Archer thinks that the play will appeal to a wide audience, and people will really appreciate the dynamic relationships between the characters.

"The whole play is fun. It's hard to pick a favourite part," said Archer. "Be prepared for a surprise near the end," said Archer.

To purchase tickets for *The Foreigner* or any of the other shows, call the Highlands Summer Festival box office at 457-9933. Tickets are \$25 each.

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Camp Diamond sparkles in the summer

Story and photos
by Martha Perkins

When Suzanne Slater was growing up, Camp Gay Venture on the shores of Lake Kashagawigamog was her perfect world.

The camp is now gone – the property was turned into the Chandler Point cottage development – but in her quest to keep all the things she loved about summer camp alive, Slater has now found a new perfect world.

Last winter, she bought the former hockey camp on the shores of Big Harding Lake, just south of Highland Grove on County Road 648. She spent the next few months planning and preparing for its transformation into Camp Diamond.

"It combines everything I love to do," she said during a recent open house of the upgraded facilities which overlook 1,800 feet of lakefront.

There's her love of camp life, which engenders self-discovery and self-confidence. And her love of nature, which she explored while getting a Bachelor of Science degree in Florida. Then there's her commitment to sharing knowledge, which she enhanced while getting her Masters of Education degree at Boston College.

All those facets of her life come together in one place: Camp Diamond.

"Who wouldn't be happy up here," she smiles, even while swatting away the occasional deer fly. "It's care-free and beautiful, even on rainy days. When I have to go back to the city it's like I'm under a black cloud."

"This is just my home. I love it."

While Camp Diamond is opening its season as a family camp, where families can stay in the cluster of rudimentary six-person cabins, it will primarily be a girls camp.

Her website says the mission of Camp Diamond is to provide "youth the opportunity to experience the outdoors and create a sense of self-confidence and awareness so that they can achieve their best...."

"We want our campers to have strength in their own choices, joy in partaking & participating in a community atmosphere, enrichment of skills & opportunities, diversity of people, talents and ideas, and building a sustainable environment."

Programs will run the usual gamut of crafts, drama, watersports, outdoor games such as low ropes and Capture the Flag, and a bevy of sports on land and on water such as swimming, canoeing, sailing (she hopes), archery and soccer. She also plans to teach young campers how to garden and cook.

Many of these activities are being lost in our school sys-



Owning Camp Diamond, on the shores of Big Harding Lake near Highland Grove brings together all of Suzanne Slater's passions: the joys of summer camp, the invigorating challenges of education and the contentment of being able to spend so much time outside.



Our cover girl, 16-year-old Amanda of Highland Grove, relaxes on the dock during Camp Diamond's recent open house.



Ty Rupnow's parents believe you're never too young to discover how much fun camp can be.

tem, she says, so camp can play an even more important role in a young person's life than it did when she was spending her summers in Haliburton.

There's lots of room to roam and explore on the camp property which includes 11 cabins, washrooms with showers, a dining hall with a verandah overlooking the lake, indoor activity building, nursing cabin, and open air pavilion. Then there's the large sandy beach and soccer field. The property is heavily treed but there is it is also open and airy – just what's needed to keep the bug population in check.

Registrations are still being accepted for the inaugural season. To find out more, go to www.campdiamond.com.

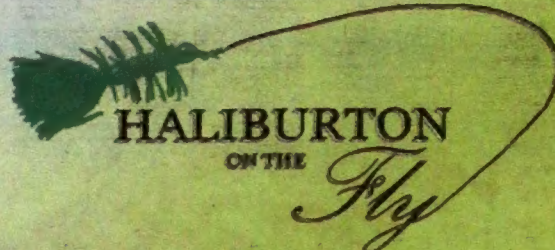
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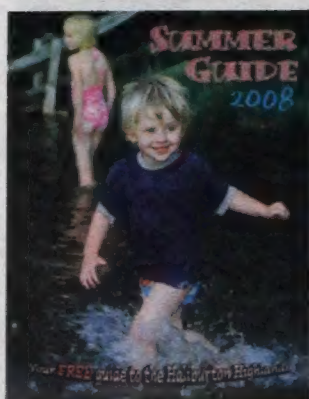
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at locations
throughout the
county

Until July 9th

"Paint Life: Paint Light: Paint Joy..." New works from the plein air palette and studio of John David Anderson at Ethel Curry Gallery in Haliburton. www.theethelcurrygallery.com

Beginning July 2nd

Boreal Baroque by Mary Ann Barkhouse. Opening reception on Saturday, July 5th at 1 p.m., at the Agnes Jamieson Gallery. www.mindenculturalcentre.com

Until July 11th

Every weekday night at 8 p.m., **The Foreigner** takes to the stage at the Northern Lights Pavilion in Haliburton as part of the Highlands Summer Festival. A comedy with a dark twist. Call 457-9933 for tickets or visit www.highlandsummerfestival.on.ca for full summer line-up.

Tuesday, July 1st

Canada Day Celebrations in Minden

Music, classic cars, food, crazy river raft race, and family fun. Experience all of the excitement in downtown Minden from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., and fireworks at dusk. Free! Minden Fairground. Call: (705) 286-1260.

Tuesday, July 1st

Canada Celebrations in West Guilford

Family fun races, contests, games, beef BBQ dinner, and a spectacular fireworks display! Located at the West Guilford Community Centre, this event will begin at noon!

Tuesday, July 1st

Canada Celebrations in Wilberforce

Celebrations will take place in downtown Wilberforce, and are hosted by the Wilberforce Red Cross Outpost Historic House.

Wednesday, July 2nd

Art Talk: Preservation of an Artist, by Sandra Dupret at Fleming College, Great Hall, from 4:45 p.m. - 6 p.m. Free! For more information call: (705) 457-1680.

Wednesday, July 2nd

Meet Artists. The Carole Finn Art Gallery features Rod Prouse, Tony Sheila Clennell, Paulus Tjiang, Doug Stephens. Located at 13 Newcastle Street in Minden. (705) 286-3426.

Wednesday, July 2nd

Walking the Moon on the Labyrinth at RD Lawrence Place/Minden Hills Labyrinth, at 7 p.m.. Admission is by donation. Contact: Sheryl Loucks 286-2298. E-mail rdlawrenceplace@mindenhills.ca

Thursday, July 3rd

Summer Cruise Night presented by Haliburton Highlands Time Travellers Car Club. Come and check out the wonderful array of cars and trucks, at the town docks in Haliburton. Call: (705) 754-3403

Thursday, July 3rd

Walk-About presented by Haliburton School of the Arts. Self-guided classroom tours at Fleming College and Haliburton Highlands Secondary School, from 4 - 5:45 p.m. Free!

Friday, July 4th

Hand of the Maker Dan Guerin, photographer. 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. The Art Hive, Hwy 118 Maple Lake. (705) 754-0021.

Friday, July 4th

HLPT/OFAH Conservation Dinner

Silent and live auction, many raffles, and a great meal. Tickets are \$70 per person and are available by

contacting the Hatchery. Please note: only 145 tickets are available. Beginning at 6:00, this event will be held at Delta Pinestone Resort. To reserve tickets, call: Marilyn at (705) 457-9664.

Friday, July 4th

The Much Music Video Dance SK8Park Frenzy at the Minden arena from 7:30 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.. Tickets \$8 in advance or \$10 at the door. Advance tickets can be purchased from the Township Office, 7 Milne Street, Minden during regular business hours. Contact Rick Cox at (705) 286-1260 ex. 220. rcox@mindenhills.ca

Friday, July 4th

Writer's Circle at the Wilberforce Red Cross Outpost Historic House Museum, 2314 Loop Road. Contact Hilda at (705) 448-2018 or Cathy at (705) 448-2211. www.redcrossoutpost.org

Friday, July 4th

Music By The Gull: Zoe Chilco. Experience live music on the banks of the Gull River, beside the Post Office in Minden. Bring your chair. From 7 p.m. until dusk.

Saturday, July 5th

Community Rhythm and Drumming Circle. No hand drumming or musical experience necessary! Lots of drums and percussion instruments available. From 10 a.m. - noon. \$10 per person, \$25 per family - No pre-registration required. The Art Hive is located at 10239, Hwy 118, Haliburton. Call: (705) 754-0021

Saturday, July 5th

Youth Unlimited is having an **lemonade stand** in front of Cordell Interior's in Haliburton.

Saturday, July 5th

Dorset Town Dock Kids Fish Derby. For kids 12 and under accompanied by an adult. Registration 9 a.m., and judging from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Prize ceremony at 11 a.m. Call: (705) 766-9968. E-mail drc@algonquinhighlands.ca

Saturday, July 5th

Dinner and 2 Fringe Theatre performances. 1. Abby North Drummers with Barry Hayward & Drummers. 2. Love Through the Fourth Wall by Sarah Delroy. The audience will help decide certain fates of certain characters and be encouraged to participate with the performance. The first three rows will get splashed with dramatic exuberance. The Wintergreen Barn, 3325 Gelert Road. Tickets \$30. Call: (705) 286-3202; e-mail mindenfringe@gmail.com

Saturday, July 5th

Peddle Your Arts: Gears for Guilford Tour

On this 40 km bicycle tour, you will experience travel on pleasant and scenic secondary roads. Ample time will be provided to engage the local artists who have come here to hone their crafts and create. Call Barrie Martin at (705) 754-3436. E-mail info@yoursoutdoors.ca

Saturday, July 5th

Sherbourne Trail to Kawagama Lake with the Haliburton ATV Association. Meet at Ox Narrows Restaurant, Hwy 35, north of Carnarvon, at 10 a.m.. Beginner/intermediate riding. Buy your pass or membership online BEFORE you show up. bhtrask@sympatico.ca or www.haliburtonatv.com

Saturday, July 5th until July 13th

"Soundings" Discoveries in Stone & Fabric. Explore our open house and large new selection from 1 p.m. - 6 p.m. Call: (705) 457-2163. www.soapstonecarvings.com

Monday, July 7th until July 11th

Creation Station Kids Mix Workshops. A variety of different classes to teach children in an array of different mediums. Classes are \$20 each. Material fees paid to the instructor. The Art Hive is Located at 10239, Hwy 118. (705) 754-0021.

Monday, July 7th until July 11th

Tutus and TipToes. A week long program consisting of tutu making/decorating with Dani Smolen, and dance with Julie Barban. Our week will end with a small performance for parents and friends, with a theme of Sleeping Beauty. Time: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Ages: Group A: 6-9; Group B: 10 and over. Cost: \$160 + \$25 (materials fee). Please register by June 13th. Call: Heritage Ballet at (705) 457-1990.

Monday, July 7th until July 11th

A week-long **outdoor leadership residential camp** for youths aged 10-14. Takes youths into the wilderness to be exposed to activities such as canoeing and kayaking, rock climbing, ropes course, orienteering, astronomy, night hikes etc. Fee: \$ 400 per week, including all programming, meals, and accommodation. Call: (705) 754-2198. haliburtonforest@sympatico.ca www.haliburtonforest.com

Tuesday, July 8th

Folk in the Park. Haliburton County Folk Society presents musicians from Haliburton County. Located at Head Lake Park in Haliburton. Beginning at 8 p.m. Free! Call: (705) 754-3655

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